

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 2422

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## AN ACT

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for low-income and other underserved individuals by breaking down barriers to care, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Action for Dental  
3 Health Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTEER DENTAL PROJECTS AND ACTION FOR**  
5 **DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**

6 Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 247b–14) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
9 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
11 lowing new subsection:

12 “(e) ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
14 tion with the Director of the Centers for Disease  
15 Control and Prevention and the Administrator of the  
16 Health Resources and Service Administration, may  
17 award grants to or enter into contracts with eligible  
18 entities to collaborate with State, county, or local  
19 public officials and other stakeholders to develop and  
20 implement initiatives to accomplish any of the fol-  
21 lowing goals:

22 “(A) To improve oral health education and  
23 dental disease prevention, including through  
24 community-wide prevention programs, through  
25 the use of dental sealants and fluoride varnish,  
26 and by increasing oral health literacy.

1           “(B) To reduce geographic barriers, lan-  
2           guage barriers, cultural barriers, and other  
3           similar barriers to the provision of dental serv-  
4           ices.

5           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the  
6           term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that is—

7                   “(A) a State or local dental association;

8                   “(B) a State oral health program;

9                   “(C) a dental education, dental hygiene, or  
10           postdoctoral dental education program accred-  
11           ited by the Commission on Dental Accredita-  
12           tion; or

13                   “(D) a community-based organization  
14           that—

15                           “(i) partners with an academic insti-  
16           tution;

17                           “(ii) is exempt from tax under section  
18           501(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
19           1986; and

20                           “(iii) partners with public and private  
21           stakeholders to facilitate the provision of  
22           dental services for underserved popu-  
23           lations.”; and

24           (3) in subsection (g), as redesignated by para-  
25           graph (1), by striking “such sums as may be nec-

1        essary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through  
2        2005” and inserting “\$18,000,000 for each of the  
3        fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

4        **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.**

5        Section 340G of the Public Health Service Act (42  
6        U.S.C. 256g) is amended—

7                (1) in subsection (b)(5)—

8                        (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
9                        “and” at the end; and

10                      (B) by adding at the end the following:

11                                “(D) the establishment of dental homes for  
12                                children and adults, including for the aged,  
13                                blind, and disabled populations;

14                                “(E) the establishment of initiatives to re-  
15                                duce the use of emergency departments by indi-  
16                                viduals who seek dental services more appro-  
17                                priately delivered in a dental primary care set-  
18                                ting; and

19                                “(F) the provision of dental care to nurs-  
20                                ing home residents;”; and

21                (2) in subsection (f), by striking “\$25,000,000  
22        for the 5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year

1       2008” and inserting “\$13,903,000 for each of fiscal  
2       years 2018 through 2022”.

      Passed the House of Representatives February 26,  
2018.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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